

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, June 9, 2009

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Faith Klareich, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, and Dominique Lorang-Leins

Absent: Seth Adams, Steve Cardon, Christine Davidson-McCord, and Tolu Odunlami

Guests: Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville Environmental Management; Herb Winkler, Interested Resident

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:43 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 14, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved 5-0-0 (motion by Dighe, second by Davis).

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

Upcoming Joint Meeting

A joint meeting with the Historic Commission and Planning Commission has been scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7:30 pm at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is for Commissioners to introduce themselves and briefly discuss the mission and major activities of their organizations and to begin to identify common issues to all three Commissions. A draft agenda was distributed and discussed.

New Boards and Commission Policies

Charles briefed Commissioners on the new Boards and Commission policies adopted by the Mayor and Council at their May 18, 2009 meeting.

- Reappointed Commissioners are required to submit a form (due on July 6 for current Commissioners serving in expired terms).
- Vacancies will be advertised in the Gazette, Rockville Reports, Website and Channel 11
- There is a 3-week waiting period before the Mayor and Council will act on a nomination
- Commissioners will continue to be appointed to 3 year terms
- Commissioners appointed to fill an unexpired term of 6 months or less will be given a full 3-year term
- The Mayor and Council may be assigning liaisons to the various Boards and Commissions in the fall
- The Mayor and Council intend to schedule more joint meetings with Boards and Commissions in the future

Stormwater Inspections

Charles reported that the Environmental Management Division has inspected 30 of the 400 privately owned stormwater facilities since the compliance inspector was hired in May. The inspector is also responsible for investigating other illicit discharges and conducting spill response.

Stormwater Ordinance Revisions

Gewandter briefed the Commission on plans to comprehensively revise Chapter 19 of the City Code (stormwater programs) to reflect State law changes and City innovations. The Commission will be asked to help scope the new ordinance and consider the technical and policy positions included in a first draft. The deadline for adoption is no later than May 2010.

Science Day/Hometown Holidays Debrief led by Beri Kravitz

The Commission expressed disappointment that the logistics, particularly for the Hometown Holidays event did not go smoother. There were problems accessing 30 Courthouse Square, with space allocations in the booth, with electricity, with brochure displays/presentation and with the quality of the display materials. The Commission and City staff will work over the summer and fall to improve the materials and supplies available to the Commission for such events in the future.

The Commission would also like to assist Recreation and Parks staff organizing any future “*Green Vendor*” events.

Adopt-a-Stream Program Briefing by Heather Gewandter

Pursuant to a request from the Watershed Protection Committee, Gewandter reported on the number of adopted stream segments, the demographics of participating organizations, and the stream clean up events. There are 23 adopted segments (11 this year alone). 9 are by HOAs, 6 by NGOs, 5 by Commissions and Boards, & 3 by Businesses. 75% of the groups conducted cleanups this spring (expect at least 2 events per year per group).

Commissioners suggested that Staff consider emailing out to group liaisons after significant storms (because the events will result in trash in and around the streams).

Committee Reports

Watershed Protection Committee

Chair Dighe noted that the Committee met on May 20 (third Wednesday of the month at 7:15 pm at 30 Courthouse Square). Discussions included the scope of the upcoming Cabin John Watershed study to be conducted in FY 2010, the need to establish a policy on salt usage during winter road treatments; homeowner recommendations on salt applications to steps and sidewalks; the need to establish a fertilizer and pesticide

application policy; the desirability of creating a volunteer sediment effort; invasive species training, and watershed related web-page content.

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee

The Committee met on May 28 (4th Thursday of each month) and discussed additional issues associated with the Draft Green Building ordinance. The Committee spent a significant amount of time on the question of when a renovation should trigger application of the new Codes to the entire structure. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to consider formal introduction of this ordinance at their meeting on June 22, 2009.

Herb Winkler, guest at the meeting indicated an interest in joining the Climate & Energy Committee. He can be contacted at herbert.winkler@verizon.net or herb.winkler@gmail.com. His daytime phone is (240) 899-0613.

Outreach Committee

Lorang-Leins reported that the Committee did not meet in May in lieu of participation in Hometown Holidays. The Committee intends to assemble a list of lessons learned from participation in Science Day and Hometown Holidays.

Closed Session

At 9:10 pm, the Commission voted unanimously (moved by Davis and seconded by Lorang-Leins) to go into a closed session to begin to consider a process to ultimately replace the Commission's current chair.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7:30 pm** at the **Rockville City Hall** (111 Maryland Ave).

Post-Meeting Action Items:

- Charles to poll Commissioners about attendance on the 18th
- Commissioners to identify outreach materials needed for next fiscal year
- The Climate and Energy Chair to contact Mr. Herb Winkler about joining the Committee (see contact info above)
- The Outreach Committee to assemble a list of lessons learned from participation in Science Day and Hometown Holidays